



## ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RECREATIONAL FISHING FUNDING MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2010



Location: Division of Soil & Water Building, Pilottown Road, Lewes, Delaware  
Div. of Fish & Wildlife Phone: 302-739-9914, Fax: 302-739-6157

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Eric Burnley, Sr. (Chairman)  
Bill Baker  
Bernie Pankowski  
Jack Carpenter  
Floyd Morton III  
Ralph Newberry (absent)  
David Russell  
Sen. Robert L. Venables (absent)  
Rep. Gerald W. Hocker (absent)

### DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

Patrick Emory  
Carla Cassell-Carter  
Craig Shirey

### PUBLIC

4

#### **Agenda Item 1. Welcome**

**Chairman Burnley** opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and welcomed everyone.

#### **Agenda Item 2. Approval of Minutes from October 8, 2009**

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes from October 8, 2009.

#### **Agenda Item 3. Discussion of the Division's Budgetary Standing**

**Ms. Cassell-Carter** went over fishing license sales for 2009 and brought everyone up to date on revenue for last year. The Division's fishing license sales totaled a little over \$1.5 million. This is close to projections made prior to the passage of HB 107 which increased the fishing license base to include saltwater activities. She mentioned that license sales are automated now, making it possible to track revenues on a quarterly basis. **Mr. Shirey** explained that the current Federal Aid apportionment totals just over \$5.3 million (this includes the remainder from 2009 and the apportionment for 2010). In considering projects currently planned (based on the Council's previous advice and Division priorities), which are included for immediate development and construction depending on the accuracy of the estimates, there is a remainder of approximately \$548,000 to be used as a buffer against unanticipated budget demands. **Mr. Emory** explained that maintenance and construction projects tend to be very lengthy and complicated, mostly due to the permitting process and possible mitigation procedures and this can further complicate the planning and budgeting process. After **Mr. Baker** asked for an explanation for why the projects that this Council prioritized two years ago are not yet complete, **Mr. Emory** and **Ms. Cassell-Carter** went into further detail on how engineering, budgeting, permitting, mitigation and federal aid apportionment can cause a single project to take much longer than people might realize. They also

explained, in further detail, how a project's budget is planned to pay each of the various contractors, permit fees, etc., as each of the many phases of the project are completed. **Mr. Burnley** commented that he understands construction projects tend to be very lengthy and complicated with various permit requirements and other obstacles that can cause delays. Much discussion followed which lead to **Mr. Pankowski** and **Mr. Burnley** agreeing and suggesting that it will help the Council to see a written estimated timeframe for a project from beginning to end. **Mr. Burnley** added that he would also like a report detailing the budget for each completed project. He said this will help everyone gain understanding of exactly how the funds collected from license sales are spent. **Mr. Emory** replied that he will have something prepared and send it to each of the council members. **Mr. Shirey** gave a brief progress update for each of the projects currently planned for maintenance and development. Many comments and more discussion, with audience participation, followed regarding the Council's reasoning for their prioritization of projects, location of the meetings, the lack of information distributed to the general public on issues covered by this Council, and conversely, the lack of public attendance at these meetings. **Mr. Burnley** stated that he has no problem with some of the meetings being held in Kent or New Castle counties. He also explained how each of the Council members "polled" various people for a 6-month period after they received the initial list of possible maintenance and construction projects from the DFW and then he put together and prioritized the list of projects from those results.

#### **Agenda Item 4. Possibility of Holt's Landing Boat Ramp Expansion or New Ramp at End of Assawoman Canal**

**Mr. Baker** stated that Representative Hocker is interested in construction of a boat ramp on the Assawoman Canal because this area lacks a nice access facility. If this is not

possible, Representative Hocker would be interested in expanding the Holt's Landing Boat Ramp. **Mr. Emory** agreed but stated the depth of water in that area is very shallow and the DFW does not own any property along the canal. Current budget constraints do not allow for the purchase of any property in this area. He said he will look into meeting with staff from the Div. of Parks & Recreation regarding expanding the Holt's Landing Boat Ramp since they own and maintain that facility. The Div. of P&R also owns the canal making them an essential part of any future plan to purchase canal property and build an access facility.

**Agenda Item 5. Discussion of Agent Fees for License Sales and Incorporating F.I.N**

**Ms. Cassell-Carter** explained that state laws allow the DFW's license agents to charge a service fee for selling hunting and fishing licenses. She explained that some license agents have requested that this fee, regulated by law, be increased because many have complained that recent changes in license procedures and a decrease in the number of agents has exacerbated the license process. In a related issue, it was also explained that since fishing license sales are now completely electronic, it is possible to incorporate the F.I.N. registration into the license database, which would streamline the process. Also, if the DFW incorporates F.I.N. registration into the license database, it would save money since the Division currently has a contract with a company to handle each F.I.N. registration and they charge 70 cents per call or on-line registration. Some discussion took place regarding the possibility of increasing the license agent service fee and what exactly the state is responsible for providing the agents and what is expected of the license agent. **Mr. Pankowski** mentioned that the Tidal Finfish Advisory Council, of which he is also a member, has already heard discussion on this topic and passed a motion advising the DFW to seek an increase in the service fee license agents may charge. After more discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to advise the DFW to seek an increase in the license agent service fee.

**Agenda Item 6. Tentative Date for the Next Meeting**

It was decided after a brief discussion that the next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for sometime in November and will probably take place at the DNREC, Richardson & Robbins Auditorium. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Records  
Recording Secretary